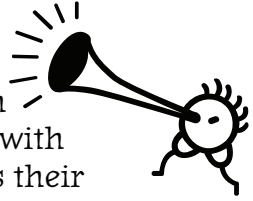


Language Development and Communication



We now know that when we help children learn language, we are helping their brains develop in very important ways.

Families do so much for their child when they make sure that their days are filled with opportunities to speak, listen and express their feelings. Take a few minutes to talk about what happened yesterday, what is happening today and what might happen tomorrow. **The conversations you have with your child are invaluable.**



Books Your Child Will Enjoy

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
Listen to the Rain by Bill Martin
One Duck Stuck by Phyllis Root
Signs at the Store by Mary Hill
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

If your family speaks a language other than English, continue to tell stories and read to your child in your home language. At the same time, encourage your child to make progress in listening and understanding English.

Sing silly songs, say rhymes, share family stories and talk with your child about what you are doing as you go through your day.

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Language Development and Communication 3.1

Listening and Understanding

Children become good communicators when they learn the skills of listening and understanding.

- **Share** family stories and family traditions
- **Read** books together every day. After reading a short story, ask your child to retell the story.
- **Talk** to your child about what you are doing as you move through your daily activities. For instance, "I am going to make dinner now. What vegetable should we have? What should we put in our salad?"



- **Ask** questions that use the words **what...if** such as:

- "What would it be like if we lived on the bottom of the ocean? How about the North Pole?"
- "What would it be like if we lived on a farm with a lot of animals?"
- "What would you do if you had wings?"



Games

Play lots of different games so that your child can learn to listen to directions and follow them. Think about the games you remember from your own childhood and play them with your child.

Here are a few examples:

- 👍 Follow the Leader
- 👍 Simon Says
- 👍 The Hokey Pokey
- 👍 Red Light, Green Light
- 👍 Duck-Duck-Goose
- 👍 Mother May I



Go Fish!



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★ Use the back of this card to list childhood games you wish to share... ➡

3

Following Directions

With your support, your child will begin to follow directions that take a number of steps to complete.

Tips for Families:

Some children find it difficult to follow through when you say things like, "Please get your coat and shoes and meet me at the back door." Try asking your child to repeat the directions back to you. Your conversation might go like this:

Parent: "What do you need to do first?"

Child: "Find my coat."

Parent: "Then what?"

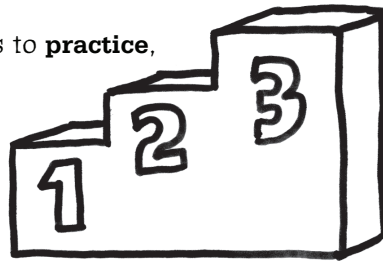
Child: "Get my shoes."

Parent: "And last?"

Child: "Meet you at the backdoor!"

Parent: "Great!"

After lots of opportunities to **practice**, your child will get it!



Rhode Island Early Learning Standards



Family Favorite

SIMON SAYS

Here is a game for the whole family to enjoy. Each member of the family takes a turn playing Simon. Simon gives the players a series of commands such as, "Simon says touch your toes. Simon says touch your chin." All players must follow Simon's instructions **IF and ONLY IF** Simon begins the command with the words "Simon says."

Players have to listen carefully because once in a while, Simon will give a command and not say, "Simon says." All of the players who follow the command when Simon fails to say, "Simon says" are out of the game. The last person standing is the winner!

When your child is ready, try giving two commands together... and then three like "Simon says touch the top of your head, then your knees and then clap your hands."

3

Speaking and Communicating

Children are born with the ability to communicate. By four years of age, their ability to express their thoughts and ideas through speaking, gestures and body language takes on a new importance. When you encourage your child to express themselves and their ideas, you will **see their confidence grow**.

- During meal time, bath time and other daily routines, have your child describe what they did that day. "What was your favorite part of the day? Tell me one new thing that you learned today."
- When you go somewhere new, talk about this place with your child and use new words related to the experience
- When reading to your child, stop and talk about what new words mean. Encourage your child to use the pictures and story as clues to the meaning. Try to use these new words in future conversations you have together.
- Pretend play allows children to experiment with conversation and story telling



Family Favorite



A PRETEND PICNIC

Plan a pretend picnic with your child. Begin by asking questions like:

- "Who should we invite?"
- "What should we serve?"
- "What food should we pack?"

Then together pack your basket with cups, plates, napkins and food. Lay out your blanket just about anywhere and pretend!

Puppets

Use paper bags or different colored socks to make puppets. Make faces on your puppets with markers or crayons. Glue on yarn, buttons or whatever you think of to decorate your puppets. Now act out your favorite stories!

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